

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-5, 8, and 28-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 8 and 28-34 are allowed. Claim 35 has been amended. No Claims have been added. No Claims have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamauchi et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0112662) hereinafter “*Yamauchi*” in view of Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art Teaching.

In light of the amendment, the Examiner’s rejections have become moot. Nonetheless, the following remarks regarding the Examiner’s rejections and the amended claims may be helpful to expedite prosecution. Claim 35 has been amended to include the limitation that the perimeter drain comprises a concaved conduit for reducing the surface area contacting the photoresist being recovered. None of the prior art of record disclose nor suggest a perimeter drain having a concaved conduit for reducing the surface area contacting the perimeter drain. Since the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest all the limitations of independent claim 35, Applicant asserts that claims 35, and all the claims which depend upon it, should be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants’ silence regarding any dependent

claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 33-36 under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over *Yamuchi* in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art Teaching.

The Examiner has rejected claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamauchi* in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art Teaching and *Yamasaka* (U.S. 5,997,653) hereinafter "*Yamasaka*".

In light of the amendment to independent claim 35, and in view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim. However, *Yamasaka* also fails remedy the deficiencies of *Yamauchi* and *AAPA* and fails to disclose or suggest a perimeter drain having a concaved conduit for reducing the surface area contacting the perimeter drain.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 37 under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over *Yamuchi* in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art Teaching and *Yamasaka*.

CONCLUSION

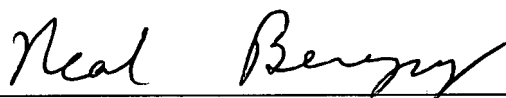
Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Mr. Neal Berezny at (408) 962-7563.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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